

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-13. (Previously Cancelled)

14. (Currently Cancelled) A nonfelting wool obtained by a process comprising exposing wool to a

- (a) a plasma in a pretreatment, followed by
- (b) optionally, an aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates,
- (c) a softener, and
- (d) optionally, an antislip agent.

15. (Currently Cancelled) A nonfelting wool obtained by a process comprising exposing wool to

- (a) a plasma in a pretreatment, followed by
- (b) an aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates,
- (c) a softener, and
- (d) optionally, an antislip agent.

16. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 14 wherein the wool is raw wool obtained after a raw wool scour, dyed or undyed wool slubbing, or a dyed or undyed wool yarn, knit, or cloth.

17. (Currently Cancelled) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 14 wherein the self-dispersing isocyanate has an isocyanate content of 1 to 25% by weight, reckoned as NCO (having a molecular weight of 42 g/mol), and is obtained by reaction in any order of

- (I) organic polyisocyanates having an average NCO functionality of 1.8 to 4.2 with
 - (II) polyalkylene oxide alcohols, amines, and/or thiols of the formula (1)
- $$R^1R^2N-(CHX-CHY-O)^n-CHX-CHY-ZH \quad (1)$$

wherein

n is 3 to 70,

X and Y are hydrogen or methyl, with the proviso that when one of X and Y is methyl the other of X and Y must be hydrogen,

R¹ and R² are independently straight-chain or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl radicals or straight-chain or branched C₁-C₆-acyl radicals, with the proviso that if R¹ is a straight-chain or branched C₁-C₆-acyl radical, R² can also be hydrogen, or R¹ and R² may combine to form a -(CH₂)_m- alkylene radical where m is 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein one or two CH₂ groups can be replaced by O and/or NH and/or one or two CH₂ groups can be substituted by methyl, and

Z is O, S, or NH,

(III) optionally, further NCO-reactive compounds containing anionic, cationic, and/or potentially anionic or cationic groups, and

(IV) optionally, further auxiliary and additive substances.

18. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 wherein the organic polyisocyanate is a unmodified aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic, or aromatic isocyanate having an average NCO functionality of 1.8 to 4.2.

19. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 wherein the polyalkylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol contains on average 6 to 60 alkylene oxide units per molecule.

20. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 19 wherein the polyalkylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol is a polyethylene oxide/propylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol.

21. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 19 wherein the polyethylene oxide/propylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol contains not less than 60 mol% of ethylene oxide units, based on the sum total of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide units.

22. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 wherein the NCO-reactive compound is

- (i) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having tertiary amino groups, (ii) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having carboxyl or sulphonic acid groups,
- (iii) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having carboxylate or sulphonate groups for which the counterions are metal cations of the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal group or ammonium ions, or
- (iv) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having ammonium groups obtained from the tertiary amino groups of the compounds (i) by alkylation or protonation.

23. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 wherein the softener ~~softeners~~ is a fatty acid amide, ester quat, quaternary fatty acid amide, betaine, fatty acid sarcoside, aminosilicone, polyethylene wax emulsion or silicone emulsion.

24. (Previously Added) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 wherein the antislip agent is an anionic or cationic silica sol, blocked isocyanate resin, hydrophilicized isocyanate resin, polyacrylate, or polyvinyl alcohol.

25. (Previously Added) A process for the antifelt finishing of wool comprising exposing wool to

- (a) a plasma in a pretreatment, followed by
- (b) optionally, an aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates,
- (c) a softener, and
- (d) optionally, an antislip agent.

26. (Previously Added) A process for the antifelt finishing of wool according to Claim 25 wherein exposure to the aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates is effected either batchwise in an exhaust process or continuously by

dipping, roll application, padding, application of a mist or spray, or backwasher application.

27. (Previously Added) A process for the antifelt finishing of wool according to Claim 25 wherein exposure to the aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates and the softener is effected are carried out together and are followed by exposure to the antislip agent.

28. (New) A nonfelting wool obtained by a process comprising exposing wool to:

- (a) a plasma in a pretreatment, followed by
- (b) an aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates, wherein the self-dispersing isocyanate has an isocyanate content of 1 to 25% by weight, calculated as NCO (having a molecular weight of 42 g/mol), and is obtained by reaction of:

(I) organic polyisocyanates having an average NCO functionality of 1.8 to 4.2 with

(II) polyalkylene oxide alcohols, amines, and/or thiols of the formula (1)



wherein

n is 3 to 70,

X and Y are hydrogen or methyl, with the proviso that when one of X and Y is methyl the other of X and Y must be hydrogen,

R^1 and R^2 are independently straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radicals or straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_6 -acyl radicals, with the proviso that if R^1 is a straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_6 -acyl radical, R^2 can also be hydrogen, or R^1 and R^2 may combine to form a $-(CH_2)_m$ -alkylene radical where m is 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein one or two CH_2 groups can be replaced by O and/or NH and/or one or two CH_2 groups can be substituted by methyl, and

Z is O, S, or NH,

- (c) a softener, and
- (d) optionally, an antislip agent.